SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that in respect of all other aided institutions, the Government insist on the payment of this allowance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is not a question of insisting on the payment of this allowance. The Government permit these institutions to pay even more than the Government scales of dearness allowance.

Care milk powder

* 5 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN and SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of students affected by the use of CARE milk powder?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is presumed that the Member refers to the food poisoning incident in the Athipatti Junior Basic School. Forty children were affected of whom four died after consuming rice with curd prepared out of CARE Milk powder.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Was chemical toxico-bacteriological test conducted by experts on the milk powder since so many children died?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The test conducted on the milk powder shows that there was nothing wrong with the milk powder.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : It is one of the findings of that committee that milk prepared in cold water and not boiled afterwards is more injurious to health. Were instructions issued to that effect?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : By way of abundant caution, they were advised to prepare this milk with hot water.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is it one of the findings of the committee that curd prepared out of this CARE milk powder is very harmful to health and not reconstituted milk?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It was not so, but by way of abundant caution, they were advised to have it distributed as milk and not as buttermilk.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Has there been any case of death after the recent instructions issued by the Government to prepare curd from this powder in hot water?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Now it is distributed as milk. It is prepard in hot water and there has been no case of death of chidren who took this milk.

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SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Is there any supervision to see whether it is prepared in hot water?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : They are required to prepare it in hot water. If there is any complaint, we will look into it.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that, whether it is cold water or hot water, pure milk, when it turns into curd, will not become poisonous?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It will not necessarily become poisonous. The finding was that the infection was due to infection in the hand of one of the children who took part in preparing this milk in hot water.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know whether instructions have been issued that hereafter only milk should be taken and not curd prepard out of it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That is the present instruction that is in force. I do not think preparing buttermilk necessarily causes this infection.

SRIMATHI MARY C. CLUBWALA JADHAV : Is the Hon. Minister aware that thousands of children have been having this curd prepared from this powder for the last ten years and it has not been poisonous?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That is so. According to the finding, the infection was not due to the preparation of buttermilk.

Nandanam Government Milk Factory

6 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any complaint has been received about the emanation of obnoxious odour from the Nandanam Government Milk Factory; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The matter has already been taken up with the Corporation of Madras. The concerned Corporation officials have visited the place. Steps are being taken for the efficient disposal of the Factory effluent.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I know what measures the Corporation took in the matter?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : The Corporation did not take any action. The Government have already taken action and shifted the Central Diary to Madhavaram.